

# **The Passamaquoddy Tribe Indian Township & Pleasant Point**

## **Presentation to**

**The Gaming Study Commission as a result of LD1897  
"An Act To Establish a Competitive Bid Process for Future Casinos and  
Slot Machine Facilities"**

# Senator Farnham's successful Amendment to LD 1897

Passed in 125<sup>th</sup> Senate on 4-13-2012 with 32 Yeas and 3 Nays Roll Call #481.  
Under the hammer in the House

Amend the amendment in section 1 in subsection 2-B in the 2nd line from the end (page 1, line 22 in amendment) by inserting after "operated" the following: '; except that the board may accept an application submitted by a federally recognized Indian tribe in the State that was licensed to conduct high-stakes beano at a gaming facility in Washington County as of January 1, 2012 if that tribe is authorized expressly by law to operate slot machines at that gaming facility'

## SUMMARY

The committee amendment prohibits the Gambling Control Board from accepting applications to operate a slot machine facility beginning September 1, 2012. **This amendment provides that this prohibition does not apply to an application from a federally recognized Indian tribe that is expressly authorized by law to operate slot machines in Washington County.**

# The Passamaquoddy Tribe has patiently been on “Hold”

- ✓ The 123<sup>rd</sup> Competing Measure
- ✓ The 124<sup>th</sup> Competing Measure/Referendum Process
- ✓ The 125<sup>th</sup> LD1520 carried over
- ✓ Current Gaming Licensees request and successfully lobby for a moratorium [LD1897] to study gaming in Maine.
- ✓ Senator Farnham's amendment allowed for the Passamaquoddy to proceed last session with a “carve out” but towards the end of the session, House and Senate leaders requested we carry over LD1520 to the Commission to review our legislation for passage in 2014.

# LD 1520 [Carried Over]

## **An Act To Allow the Passamaquoddy Tribe To Operate Slot Machines in Washington County in Conjunction with High-stakes Beano**

- Up to 750 Slot Machines
- At least 80 Hotel Rooms
- Requires amendment for Table Games
- High Stakes Bingo
- Harness Racing

**All of the above are Subject to a fresh Market Study to conform with  
Regional “Right Sizing”**

# Regional Competition from Calais

- Oxford Casino

**231 Miles**      4 hours 33 minutes

819 Slots      22 Tables      000 Hotel Rooms

- Moncton, New Brunswick Casino

540 Slots      19 Tables      126 Hotel Rooms

**166 Miles**      2 hours 35 minutes

- Bangor Casino

1000 Slots      14 Tables      152 Hotel Rooms

**127 Miles**      2 hours 30 minutes

# Our Economic Development program is Diversified

- Creative Apparel/Quoddy with 5 Locations in Maine
- Passamaquoddy Wild Blueberry
- Maple Syrup Production in Jackman
- Wind energy project in T19
- Bottled water project on reservation
- Sustainable Forestry Program

**Gaming is just a part of the overall economic development program for the Passamaquoddy Tribe**

# Host County and Community Support

## **LD1520**

- Would require a vote in Washington County only [similar to Penn Gaming for table games in Penobscot County]
- Washington County and the City of Calais has averaged over 60% support on all previous gaming referendum questions
- The City of Calais has unanimously endorsed “Host Community” status via City Council resolution

# Location Location Location

- Of the 119 border crossings from Canada, Calais is rated in the top 5 for traffic count with up to 2 million crossings per year from Canada into the U.S.
- The Calais Walmart was the largest gross revenue sales producer in Maine prior to its recent 10 million dollar expansion as a Super Walmart -- now providing over 200 jobs.
- Calais is the northern terminus of the East Coast Greenway, which has its southern terminus in Key West, Florida
- The Washington County Community College specializes in hospitality and tourism and is willing to adapt a curriculum to meet the needs of our project.
- The local ecotourism, culture and heritage opportunities are unsurpassed in the region providing for a destination resort "Bucket list" experience.

**Up to 500 new jobs in the Calais region!**



# Support from the Gaming Study Commission

- The Passamaquoddy have been gracious, respectful and patient over the past two decades
- Although many have campaigned against us; we have remained forthright in our commitment to a fair and level playing field with regards to fortifying the City of Calais and the entire region.
- Our market study shows over 60% of our consumer base will be from Canada, new dollars being spent in eastern Maine.
- At the request of Legislative Leadership, we agreed to bring LD1520 to this Commission for review and recommendation to the VLA Committee and the full Legislature.
- We are respectfully asking for a positive recommendation
- Q/A